

We avoid, besides, to a large extent questions of priority in the placing of articles. The system adopted is that of Comstock's Manual with the sequence reversed.

It is customary for entomological journals to offer their subscribers the opportunity of having their insects named. We, therefore, call the attention of the readers of the JOURNAL to the excellent facilities of the U. S. National Museum for naming Arthropods in all groups. The usual privilege is reserved of retaining specimens that are desirable for the national collection.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 1903.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History.

President C. F. Groth presided with 13 members in attendance.

The minutes of May 19 were read and approved.

The treasurer, Mr. Joutel, reported the receipt of bills for printing 500 copies of the June number of the JOURNAL.

As more than the required number of JOURNALS had been printed and also owing to the fact that the JOURNAL was mailed at the third-rate classification, the bills called for an amount larger than usual.

The secretary was instructed to correspond with the publication committee and ask for more particulars in reference to the bills.

The librarian, Mr. Schaeffer, reported the receipt of the following exchanges:

Revista do Museum Paulista, Vol. V.

Entomologisk Tidskrift, 1902, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Wiener Ent. Zeitung, XXII, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Verh. d. k. k. Zool. Bot. Gesellschaft, Vol. LII and LIII, No. 1.

Mittheilungen Schweiz. Ent. Gesellschaft, Vol. X, No. 10.

Proc. Am. Acad. Arts and Sciences, XXXVIII, No. 18.

Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXVI, Nos. 1333 and 1335.

Bulletin U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 52, 1902.

Anales del Museo Nacional de Buenos Aeres, 1902, Tome, 1 and 2.

Proc. Canadian Institute, July, 1902.

Zeitschrift für Ent. Breslau, 1902, No. 27.

Stettiner Ent. Zeitung, Vol. 64, No. 1.

Annales de la Société Ent. de Belgique, Vol. XLVI, 1902.

Deutsche Ent. Zeitschrift, from 1891-1903; but No. 1 of 1891, entire volume of 1892, and No. 2 of 1895 are missing.

Insect World, Vol. VII, No. 1, 1903.

Mr. Leng proposed Mr. Edward D. Harris, 280 Broadway, as an active member of the Society.

On motion the Secretary was instructed to convey to Mrs. Slosson the thanks of the Society for her donation of insects to be sold at auction.

Mr. Schaeffer stated that he would like to make a correction to the minutes printed in the June number of the JOURNAL as follows: "Mr. Beutenmüller exhibited in the meeting of December, a *Cassida* from Canada as *thoracica*, and not as *viridis* as wrongly stated in the footnote under the minutes of the meeting of January 20, in Vol. XI, No. 2, p. 113. He showed at the same time an article in *Le Naturaliste Canadien* on *Cassida thoracica* recently found in Canada and stated that he had received his specimens from that author as *C. thoracica*. This name was pronounced by me as incorrect and on question I stated that I think it is *C. viridis* but was not quite sure about it yet."

Moved by Mr. Joutel and duly seconded that a committee be appointed by the chair to draft resolutions on the death of Mr. A. R. Grote. Carried.

Various members of the Society gave an account of their summer's collecting experiences. Mr. Leng made a few remarks concerning the trip which he made to West Virginia in company with Dr. Love. They had been disappointed in not being able to secure any *Cychnus ridingsii* but had obtained a few *C. andrewsii*, one species of *Nomarectus* and a number of other good species of Coleoptera.

Dr. Seifert exhibited several hundred spread specimens of *Sabulodes arcasaria* Walk. which he had bred.

Mr. Comstock reported that he had taken a number of *Feniseca tarquinii* near the city the past summer.

Mr. Schaeffer exhibited some Coleoptera taken this year on his collecting trip to Brownsville, Texas, and made remarks on a few of the species. He was generally satisfied with the results of the trip but was a little disappointed with the April collecting, as he had expected to get different species during this month than Dietz and Wickham had taken during June and July; but he found few new things to reward him.

Mr. Davis exhibited a copy of Mr. A. R. Grote's "Hawk Moths of North America" printed by Homeyer and Myer, at Bremen, 1886, remarking that the title had not been included in the list of works on North American Entomology published in 1900 as Bulletin No. 24 N. S., by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Joutel remarked on the stridulation of *Cychnus viduus*. On capturing a specimen of this species he was much surprised to hear it make a squeaking noise, somewhat like the rustling of a dried leaf. On examination he found a ridge or process jutting out from the underside of the elytra and fitting into a groove at the side of the two last segments of the abdomen. The noise was produced by bending down the end of the abdomen. Both sexes are able to stridulate.

Mr. Barber reported on the taking of one specimen of *Anthophilax malachiticus* at Ft. Montgomery, N. Y., on May 30, of this year. He exhibited twelve specimens of *Cychnus elevatus* which he had taken at Langdon, Mo., in August.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 1903.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History. President C. F. Groth in the chair with thirteen members present.

On motion of Mr. Leng the regular order of business was suspended and the reading of papers and scientific discussion preceded the regular business.

Mr. C. T. Brues spoke on the dipterous family Phoridae and exhibited a collec-

tion of the North American species of the genus *Phora*. He mentioned the peculiar structure of the antennæ and the character of the wing venation, either of which make easy the recognition of any species of the family. He said that the family is represented by only about 125 species, of which about 70 are from Europe and the majority of the remainder from North America, a considerable number being common to both continents. Some of the genera are remarkable on account of the partial or entire absence of wings. Most of the species feed upon decaying matter, but in a very few cases they are known to be parasitic upon other insects. Others live in ant's nests, some as parasites and others as commensals.

Mr. Brues exhibited a recent book by Baron Osten-Sacken, "A Record of my Life-work in Entomology," and a photograph of the author.

Mr. Davis presented some remarks on *Sympetrum corruptum* in Staten Island and New Jersey. He stated that in 1861 Hagen gave for the United States, western and southern localities for this dragon-fly. In the "Dragon-flies of Indiana" by E. B. Williamson it is recorded from Asia, Mexico, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Kansas, California, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana and Ohio. In Smith's "List of the Insects of New Jersey" it is only recorded from Eltingville, Staten Island, June 27, 1896. On July 25, 1900, Mr. Davis captured a second specimen at Barnegat, N. J., and this past summer, on August 8, a third example at New Dorp, Staten Island. This last was a female, the other two being males. So far as he was aware, these were the only records for this insect along the Atlantic coast.

Mr. Leng exhibited a series of the larger Coleoptera collected by Professor Wickham chiefly on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, during the summer of 1903. Truckee and Amedee, California, Reno and Humboldt Lake, Nevada, were the places at which the greater part of the time was spent. No *Omus* were taken, the genus being apparently confined to the western slope of the mountains. Cicindelidæ were well represented, also Carabidæ and Tenebrionidæ. The Cicindelidæ of the *willistoni* group found on the shores of the lakes will be referred to later.

Mr. Schaeffer called attention to a specimen of *Heterachthes* which he had received some time ago from Texas and which adds a rather disturbing element to our characterization of the species of *Heterachthes* as it has the tibæ carinate. The species agrees well with the description of *H. nobilis*; but Le Conte and Horn in their classification state that our species of *Heterachthes* have the tibæ not carinate. We have seen that the only remaining character to separate two other allied genera, viz, *Compsa* and *Ibidion*, are the carinate or non-carinate tibæ, and consequently a new genus for this Texas species should be erected or the genus amended to include those species with carinate tibæ. He further spoke on the genus *Psyrassa* which he said was rejected by Dr. Le Conte in his synopsis of the species of *Elaphidion* because *E. unicolor* was included in the former genus. Bates in the Biol. Cent. Amer. seems to have come to the same conclusion but keeps the genus distinct and proposes to include in *Psyrassa* the elongate species of *Elaphidion* with elongate prothorax and the third joint of the antennæ with a long spine, thus adding again our *E. unicolor*. To this Dr. Horn objected, saying that if we follow this course all of our elongate *Elaphidion* as *aculeatum*, *tenue*, etc., have to be included in *Psyrassa*. Amongst the new species collected in Brownsville, Texas, there are two species which possess more of the characters of *Psyrassa* than of *Elaphidion*, especially one of them which is a true *Psyrassa* and for this reason he thinks it more advisable to describe them

under the generic name *Psyrassa* rather than *Elaphidion*. He then showed a few specimens of *Mmilema armatum* which he said he could not separate positively, although they differ in the spongy vestiture of the under side of the tarsi, made use of by Dr. Horn in the separation of some species and thought to be constant, but are in his opinion variable. To further illustrate this he exhibited three specimens of *M. gizas*, 2 males and 1 female from Yuma Co., Arizona. One male shows on the first joint of middle tarsi and the second joint of hind tarsi a spongy space only on one side of the joint, another male has a very small additional spongy space on the other side also.

Mr. Bueno exhibited a collection of all of the species of Notonectidæ to be found in the United States and made some remarks concerning some of the species. He stated that there occurred in the United States nine species of the genus *Notonecta* as follows: *Mexicana*, *insulata*, *shooteri*, *indica*, *undulata*, *variabilis*, *uhleri*, *irrorata* and *lutea*. He had found *uhleri* somewhat rare in this locality. In reference to *N. lutea* he stated that its hitherto known habitat was in various parts of northern Europe and Asia but that he had recently received specimens of that species from British Columbia.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Davis, chairman of the field committee, made a report concerning the season's excursions. In all five excursions were held as follows: Ft. Lee, N. J., April 19; Patterson, N. J., May 3; Mosholu, N. Y., May 17; Ft. Montgomery, N. Y., May 29-31; and Huguenot, Staten Island, June 14.

The following resolutions were offered by the committee appointed at the last meeting and were unanimously adopted.

"Resolved, That the New York Entomological Society receives the tidings of the decease of Augustus Radcliffe Grote, A.M., with profound sorrow; that in his death it recognizes the loss to American Entomology of a most devoted and enthusiastic worker; a man not alone an entomologist but proficient in other branches of science, in literature and art.

"Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to Mrs. Elliman, sister of Mr. Grote, to whom the New York Entomological Society hereby tenders its sincerest sympathy and condolence."

WM. T. DAVIS,

C. F. GROTH,

Com.

Mr. E. D. Harris, 280 Broadway, was elected an active member of the society.

Mr. Leng invited the members of the society to meet at his residence on the afternoon of election day, November 3.

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 1903.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History.

Vice-President Mr. Leng presided with 13 members and 2 visitors present.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Schaeffer, the librarian, reported that the following exchanges had been received at the American Museum and transmitted by Mr. Beutenmüller to the librarian:

Entomologiske Middelser, May, Febr., 1903.

Bulletino della Soc. Ent. Italiana, XXXIV, III.

Comunicaciones del Museo Nacional de Buenos Ayres, Tom. I, No. 6, pp. 187-190; pp. 206-208.

- Verh. d. k. k. Bot. Gesell., LIII, 2, 3, 4.
 Boletino Mus. Paraense, Vol. III, 3 and 4.
 Tijdschrift voor Entomologie, 1902, 3 and 4; 1903, 1.
 Horae Societatis Entomologicae Russiae, XXXVI, 1 and 2.
 Bulletin Buffalo Soc. Nat. Hist., VIII, Nos. 1, 2, 3.
 Ohio State Acad. of Science, special paper 7.
 Cold Spring Harbor Monographs, 1, 2 (Brooklyn Institute).
 Melander: Synopsis of the N. A. Species of *Ammophila*.
 Chicago Acad. of Sciences, Vol. II, No. 4; Vol. III, 2; Vol. V.
 New Mexico College of Agriculture, Bulls. 44, 45 and 46.
 21st and 22d Repts. State Ent. of the State of Illinois.
 Proc. Am. Phil. Soc., XLII, 172, 173.
 Proc. Am. Acad. Arts and Sciences, XXXVIII, Nos. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,
 26; XXXIX, 1, 2, 3.
 Phil. Soc. Wash., XIV, pp. 205-232, 1902.
 Ohio Naturalist, Vol. III, Nos. 6 and 8, 1903
 Texas Acad. of Sciences, Vol. IV, Pt. 2, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
 Melander and Brues: Guests and Parasites of the Burrowing Bee *Halictus*.
 Trans. Connecticut Acad., XI, 1, 2.
 West Virginia University Bulletin, 84, 85.
 Anales del Museo Nacional de Montevideo, Vol. IV, pp. 29-88, pp. 123-154.
 Mr. Engelhardt's paper was postponed until the next meeting of the society.

Mr. Schaeffer then presented a paper on "A Collecting Trip to the Lower Rio Grande." He stated that considerable interest had been awakened concerning the insect fauna of this region by the collections made there by Messrs. Townsend, Schwarz, Wickham, and Dietz. These collections contained a great number of either entirely new species or species known to occur so far only in Mexico and Central America. Prof. Townsend in his paper on the Biogeography of southwestern Texas, Mexico, etc., estimated that only about 25 per cent. of the species known to him belong to the semitropical fauna.

Mr. Schaeffer, in company with Mr. Doll, visited this interesting region during the past summer in the interests of the Brooklyn Museum. He found the conditions for collecting excellent and the vegetation surpassing anything he had expected. They began collecting in the middle of April but were disappointed in the results of their early collecting as they found very little which did not occur later in the season. Mr. Townsend records the palmetto groves as the home of these semitropical species, but Mr. Schaeffer found that they were more abundant in the densely wooded forests of Mexican ebony trees along the banks of the resacas. From his experience he is led to believe that the semitropical insect fauna follows the distribution of the Mexican ebony. In these forests, as well as in the palmetto groves, are found shrubs and even trees heavily overgrown with vines of different species and here are found many insects either hiding between the leaves or feeding upon them, but which are not exclusively found in these masses of vines. He obtained many of the same things from branches of ebony, willow and other trees which were far removed from vine-overgrown bushes. During the hottest part of the day insects were very scarce. The branches of most bushes and trees are armed with spines or thorns which make collecting, especially in the more densely wooded places, very unpleasant. Often

they found it necessary to cut their way through the thick tangled vines by means of the knife. Ticks, which are in places abundant, fleas, jiggers, a small troublesome fly, and frequently mosquitoes were very annoying. Most of the collecting was done at Esperanza Ranch, a place some five miles from Brownsville and the same distance from the river, containing some fine densely wooded localities. Before settling at the ranch they travelled around on horseback collecting here and there. In May a two weeks' trip was made to the coast and the islands, taking in the *Yucca* ridges which are situated between Brownsville and the coast. Although he visited the islands Brazas de Santiago and Padre he found nothing not already recorded by Wickham and Townsend.

Coleoptera is the best represented order in the district of Brownsville and with the addition of this material the number of species will be increased to nearly 800. He found that next to the Coleoptera, the Hemiptera were most abundant in individuals but not in species. Hymenoptera were more abundant than Diptera. Odonata were poorly represented. Adult stages of Orthoptera were scarce owing probably to the great abundance of birds and spiders. To this cause also was probably due the scarcity of caterpillars and other soft-bodied insects. At a rough guess Mr. Schaeffer estimates that as a result of his three months' collecting, he has brought home between 700 and 800 species of Coleoptera, of which 80 are new to our list and about one half of the 80 are new species.

Mr. Barber presented a few remarks on Mr. Bueno's "List of the Pentatomidæ within Fifty Miles of New York City" which was published in the last number of the N. Y. JOURNAL. Among other things he stated that such a fragmentary list had very little value unaccompanied by any remarks for identification of the species. Prof. J. B. Smith in his New Jersey list mentions over twice as many species occurring within the same limits. He mentioned that the taking of *Brochymena annulata*, at Lakehurst, N. J., was of interest. He also remarked that there was considerable confusion in reference to the identity of the three species of *Brochymena* occurring in this locality (*B. annulata*, *B. quadripustulata* and *B. arborea*) and added tables for their proper identification.

Mr. Leng spoke of the rare beetles from Lakehurst, N. J. He briefly described the place, mentioning the flat sandy country, the forests of small oaks and pines, the sandy wood-roads, the sphagnum swamps with their growth of white cedar and the cranberry bogs. He also referred to the boarding house of Mrs. Henry P. Taylor, which has usually been the headquarters of visiting entomologists.

Mr. Leng exhibited a few beetles taken at Lakehurst, and spoke especially of *Cicindela consentanea*, recently found in abundance by Mr. Harris, *Pasimachus depressus* found by Mr. Davis, *Exochomus septentrionis* found by Mr. Barber, *Agabus tenuolatus* found by Mr. Roberts, *Eros aurora*, *Cremostochilus harrisii*, *Polypleurus perforatus*, *Scymnus liebecki*, etc. In conclusion he said that while the total number of species living at Lakehurst might not prove unusually large, the number of species peculiar to the region would be sufficient to make it always a desirable collecting ground.

Mr. Davis exhibited the type of *Neochytus joutelii*, a new species of longhorn beetle found last summer at Lakehurst.

Mr. Roberts made some remarks in reference to the rare water beetles he had secured at Lakehurst. He secured 42 species of Dytiscidæ from one pool.